
The Cherokee County Board of Education recognizes that gifted education programming is a coordinated and comprehensive structure of informal and formal services provided on a continuing basis intended to effectively nurture gifted learners. A Gifted learner is defined as “a student who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual and/or creative ability(ies), exhibits an exceptionally high degree of motivation, and/ or excels in specific academic fields, and who needs special instruction and/or special ancillary services to achieve at levels commensurate with his or her abilities.”

Programs for gifted students assure that the education environment provides students the opportunity to extend competencies in the areas of cognitive skills, learning skills, research and reference skills, communication skills, and metacognitive skills in the regular elementary classroom through differentiation of instruction (cluster grouping), in elementary gifted education resource classes and in middle school and high school advanced content classes. The program for the gifted shall be compatible with the Educational Accountability and School Improvement Policy that includes: rigorous Student Performance Standards; Major System Priorities and School Improvement Plans (SIPs). Curriculum goals and program objectives are outlined in the *Advanced Academic Programs/Gifted Education Administrative Manual*.

Students who score at the base level of the State Board of Education (SBOE) eligibility criteria on district-wide norm-referenced mental ability and achievement tests are automatically referred for further assessment to determine eligibility for gifted education services. Teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, guardians, peers, the student or other individuals with knowledge of the student’s abilities may also refer a student for consideration.

Students in the Cherokee County School District are determined to be eligible for gifted education program services based on the criteria provided in SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.38. The procedures for nomination, referral and assessment and the specific instruments used to determine eligibility are included in the Cherokee County School District *Advanced Academic Programs/ Gifted Education Administrative Manual*.

GIFTED EDUCATION CONTINUATION POLICY

A student who is officially placed in the K-12 Gifted Education Program will continue to receive gifted programming services, provided the student meets the following continuation criteria:

The student maintains satisfactory performance in the gifted education classrooms, indicated by a (non-weighted) grade of at least 70 [as defined in the Board-approved Pupil Progression Policy (IHE) and Local Administrative Procedures Manual].

In the event that the student does not meet the continuation criteria, the following steps will be taken to review the student’s gifted services:

1. A student who fails to maintain satisfactory academic performance in gifted education classes will be referred to the Response To Intervention (RTI) Committee or Gifted Eligibility Team for appropriate interventions. Parents will be notified in writing by the principal or designee that the student will be given a probationary period of at least one semester. A student who is on probation will be provided with an Academic Improvement Plan (AIP), which will be monitored by the gifted education teacher who serves the student.
2. The student shall continue to receive gifted education services during probation, while receiving the services of the RTI Committee or Gifted Eligibility Team and attempting to achieve satisfactory performance status.
3. The individuals involved with the RTI Committee or Gifted Eligibility Team will review the student's progress at the end of the probationary period and determine the student's further academic needs. The student's demonstrated academic strengths will direct the recommended course of study.
4. A student who fails to demonstrate satisfactory performances based upon the continuation criteria in gifted education classes during the probationary period and for whom gifted services are no longer appropriate shall have a final review. The student, parent, and gifted program teacher involved will be invited to attend the review before services are withdrawn.
5. A student can be reinstated as eligible for gifted services when evidence of satisfactory academic performance in gifted education classes as defined by the Pupil Progression Policy and Local Administrative Procedures Manual over at least one semester is submitted to the school's Eligibility Team for consideration.

ADOPTED: August 2, 2001
REVISED: July 25, 2012

Cherokee County Board of Education